Ontario

Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
Public Health Division

Ontario Influenza Bulletin
2005-2006 Season

SURVEILLANCE WEEKS 44-47 (October 30, 2005 to November 26, 2005)

This issue of the Ontario Influenza Bulletin is the first release using the new design, and provides information on the surveillance period from October 30 to November 26, 2005. From this point on, the Bulletin will provide information based on Ontario influenza surveillance data on a weekly basis, distributed each Friday afternoon. The Bulletin will be available more rapidly, with data distributed less one week after the end of each surveillance period.

As the number of cases year-to-date has been small and no institutional outbreaks of influenza have been reported, the format of the Bulletin will continue to change in the weeks to come to better describe influenza activity in Ontario. As we strive to make the Ontario Influenza Bulletin a more useful and informative tool, we thank you for both for your continued support and all of the hard work occurring at the local level which make it possible to provide timely surveillance data on influenza and respiratory infections from the provincial perspective. If you would like to provide feedback, please contact Anne Arthur (anne.arthur@moh.gov.on.ca, 416-212-6377) or Anne-Luise Winter (anne-luise.winter@moh.gov.on.ca, 416-327-7301).

During the surveillance period between October 30 and November 26, 2005 influenza activity has remained low in Ontario. Three sporadically occurring cases were reported through iPHIS; no institutional outbreaks attributed to influenza were reported.

For a definition of influenza-like illness (ILI) activity levels and a map of Ontario illustrating health unit locations and health regions, please refer to the Appendix. Analysis for this issue was conducted on Wednesday November 30, 2005; therefore this bulletin is current as of that date.

Table 1: Summary of laboratory-confirmed influenza cases (sporadic) and institutional outbreaks, by health region, October 30, 2005 to November 26, 2005.

	HEALTH REGION							TOTAL
	North West	North East	Eastern	Central East	Toronto	South West	Central West	
Lab-confirmed Influenza cases*								
Influenza A	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Influenza B	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Unspecified †	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total new cases	***0***	***0***	***0***	***0***	***0***	***2***	***1***	***3***
Institutional influenza outbreaks‡	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

SOURCE: MOHLTC [iPHIS, Provincial Appendix D and Appendix E Database]
* Includes reports of sporadically occurring influenza through iPHIS, as well as cases in institutional outbreaks, with dates of onset in the surveillance period.
† Type of influenza, i.e. A vs B, was not specified in iPHIS (i.e. Influenza subtype dropdown menu left blank or reported as "Unspecified").
‡ Laboratory-confirmed outbreaks in institutions during the surveillance period.

Table 2: Confirmed* reports of influenza by health unit & health region, with an episode date† between October 30, 2005 and November 26, 2005.

Region	Health Unit	Laboratory-Confirmed Influenza			
		Influenza A	Influenza B	Unspecified‡	TOTAL
North West	Northwestern	0	0	0	0
	Thunder Bay District	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL NORTH WEST	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
North East	Algoma	0	0	0	0
	North Bay Parry Sound District	0	0	0	0
	Porcupine	0	0	0	0
	Sudbury & District	0	0	0	0
	Timiskaming	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL NORTH EAST	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Eastern	Eastern Ontario	0	0	0	0
	Hastings & Prince Edward Counties	0	0	0	0
	Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington	0	0	0	0
	Leeds, Grenville & Lanark	0	0	0	0
	Ottawa	0	0	0	0
	Renfrew	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL EASTERN	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Central East	Durham Region	0	0	0	0
	Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District	0	0	0	0
	Peterborough County-City	0	0	0	0
	Simcoe Muskoka District	0	0	0	0
	York Region	0	0	0	0
	Peel Region	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL CENTRAL EAST	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Toronto	Toronto	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL TORONTO	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
South West	Grey-Bruce	0	0	0	0
	Elgin-St. Thomas	0	0	0	0
	Huron County	1	0	0	1
	Chatham-Kent	0	0	0	0
	Lambton	0	0	0	0
	Middlesex-London	0	1	0	1
	Oxford	0	0	0	0
	Perth District	0	0	0	0
	Windsor-Essex County	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL SOUTHWEST	**1**	**1**	**0**	**2**
Central West	Brant	0	0	0	0
	Haldimand-Norfolk	0	0	0	0
	Hamilton	0	0	0	0
	Niagara Region	0	0	0	0
	Halton Region	0	0	0	0
	Waterloo Region	1	0	0	1
	Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL CENTRAL WEST	**1**	**0**	**0**	**1**
	TOTAL ONTARIO	***2***	***1***	***0***	***3***

SOURCE: MOHLTC [iPHIS]

* Confirmed cases of influenza can include laboratory-confirmed cases and confirmed epi-linked cases.

† The episode date corresponds to symptom onset date.

‡ Type of influenza, i.e. A vs B, was not specified in iPHIS (i.e. Influenza subtype dropdown menu left blank or reported as "Unspecified")

Table 3: Cumulative* confirmed† cases of influenza by health unit & health region, September 1, 2005 to November 26, 2005.

Region	Health Unit	Laboratory-Confirmed Influenza			
		Influenza A	Influenza B	Unspecified‡	TOTAL
North West	Northwestern	0	0	0	0
	Thunder Bay District	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL NORTH WEST	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
North East	Algoma	0	0	0	0
	North Bay Parry Sound District	0	0	0	0
	Porcupine	0	0	0	0
	Sudbury & District	0	0	0	0
	Timiskaming	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL NORTH EAST	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Eastern	Eastern Ontario	0	0	0	0
	Hastings & Prince Edward Counties	0	0	0	0
	Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington	0	0	0	0
	Leeds, Grenville & Lanark	0	0	0	0
	Ottawa	0	0	0	0
	Renfrew	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL EASTERN	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Central East	Durham Region	0	0	0	0
	Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District	0	0	0	0
	Peterborough County-City	0	0	0	0
	Simcoe Muskoka District	0	0	0	0
	York Region	0	1	0	1
	Peel Region	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL CENTRAL EAST	**0**	**1**	**0**	**1**
Toronto	Toronto	1	0	0	1
	TOTAL TORONTO	**1**	**0**	**0**	**1**
South West	Grey-Bruce	0	0	0	0
	Elgin-St. Thomas	0	0	0	0
	Huron County	2	0	0	2
	Chatham-Kent	0	0	0	0
	Lambton	0	0	0	0
	Middlesex-London	0	1	0	1
	Oxford	0	0	0	0
	Perth District	0	0	0	0
	Windsor-Essex County	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL SOUTHWEST	**2**	**1**	**0**	**3**
Central West	Brant	0	0	0	0
	Haldimand-Norfolk	0	0	0	0
	Hamilton	0	0	0	0
	Niagara Region	0	0	0	0
	Halton Region	0	0	0	0
	Waterloo Region	1	0	0	1
	Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL CENTRAL WEST	**1**	**0**	**0**	**1**
	TOTAL ONTARIO	***4***	***2***	***0***	***6***

SOURCE: MOHLTC [iPHIS]

* Cumulative case counts include late reports and records that are otherwise reconciled. Therefore, cumulative counts may not equal new cases plus previous cumulative value.

† Confirmed cases of influenza can include laboratory-confirmed cases and confirmed epi-linked cases.

‡ Type of influenza, i.e. A vs B, was not specified in iPHIS (i.e. Influenza subtype dropdown menu left blank or reported as "Unspecified")

Influenza Strain Characterization*
2005-2006 Season

Between September 1 and November 19, 2005, 10,838 influenza tests were conducted across Canada, with a total of 31 positive results returned. 24 isolates were identified as influenza A, of which 13 were located in Saskatchewan and 7 in British Columbia. There were 7 positive tests for influenza B, four occurring in Alberta, one occurring in Quebec, one in British Columbia, and one in Ontario. The isolates identified in Alberta all occurred during the week of November 13 to November 19, 2005.

Since the start of the 2005-2006 influenza season, the National Microbiology Laboratory (NML) has antigenically characterized 6 influenza viruses; four A/California/07/04-like viruses (three in Saskatchewan, one in British Columbia) and two B/Shanghai/361/02-like (occurring in Ontario and British Columbia).

* As this data must be obtained from FluWatch (Public Health Agency of Canada), the data presented is inclusive to November 19, 2005.

Table 4: Positive respiratory virus isolates in Ontario reported by the Centre for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control (CIDPC), October 30, 2005 to November 26, 2005*.

Reporting Week	Influenza		Other Respiratory Viruses						
	Influenza A	Influenza B	RSV	PIV1	PIV2	PIV3	PIV4	PIV (Other)	Adenovirus
October 30 – November 5, 2005	0	0	2	17	13	1	0	0	3
November 6 – November 12, 2005	0	0	5	21	9	1	0	0	3
November 13 – November 19, 2005	1	0	6	23	10	2	0	6	7
November 20 – November 26, 2005	1	0	4	11	6	0	0	0	5
TOTAL	***2***	***0***	***17***	***72***	***38***	***4***	***0***	***6***	***18***

Source: Public Health Agency of Canada

* Total numbers reported include late reports; therefore totals may not be equal to the sum of the weekly numbers.

Note: Cumulative numbers for season to date are available through FluWatch:
http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/

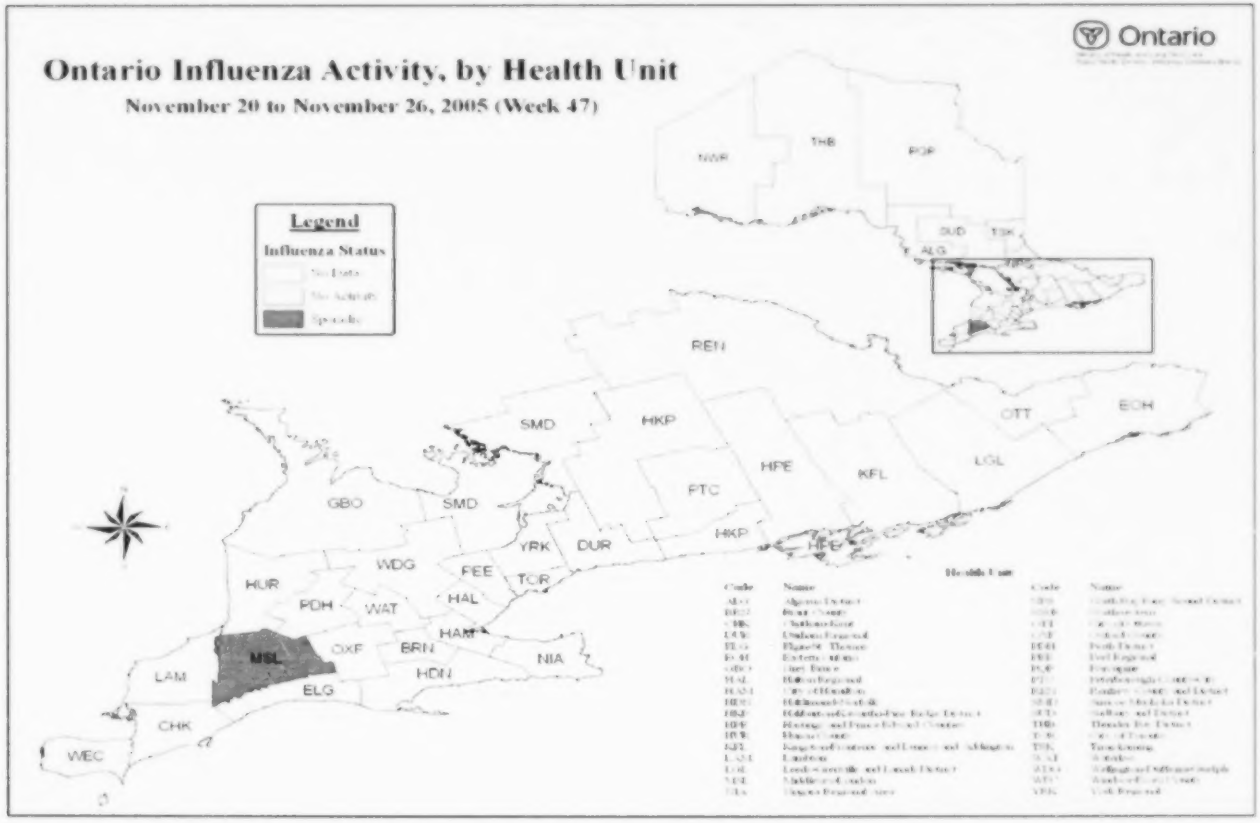
Table 5: Institutional respiratory outbreaks in Ontario, September 1, 2005 to November 26, 2005

Institutional Respiratory Infection Outbreaks

New Outbreaks*	**N**	**% (of outbreaks)**
Influenza A	0	0.0
Influenza B	0	0.0
Influenza A and B	0	0.0
Parainfluenza (All types)	2	9.5
Other organisms	2	9.5
No organism identified	17	81.0
TOTAL	***21***	***100.0***
Total Respiratory Infection Outbreaks, Season to Date†	**N**	**% (of outbreaks)**
Influenza A	0	0.0
Influenza B	0	0.0
Influenza A and B	0	0.0
Parainfluenza (All types)	10	6.4
Other organisms	38	24.4
No organism identified	108	69.2
TOTAL	***156***	***100.0***
Types of Institutions (All Outbreaks)	**N**	**% (of outbreaks)**
Long-Term Care Homes	134	85.9
Hospitals	8	5.1
Retirement Homes	14	9.0
Other	0	0.0
TOTAL	***156***	***100.0***
Outbreak Related Complications (All Outbreaks)	**N**	**% (of cases)**
Deaths		
Residents	51	2.7
Staff	0	0.0
Pneumonia (Chest x-ray confirmed)		
Residents	101	5.3
Staff	8	1.3
Hospitalizations		
Residents	126	6.6
Staff	2	0.3

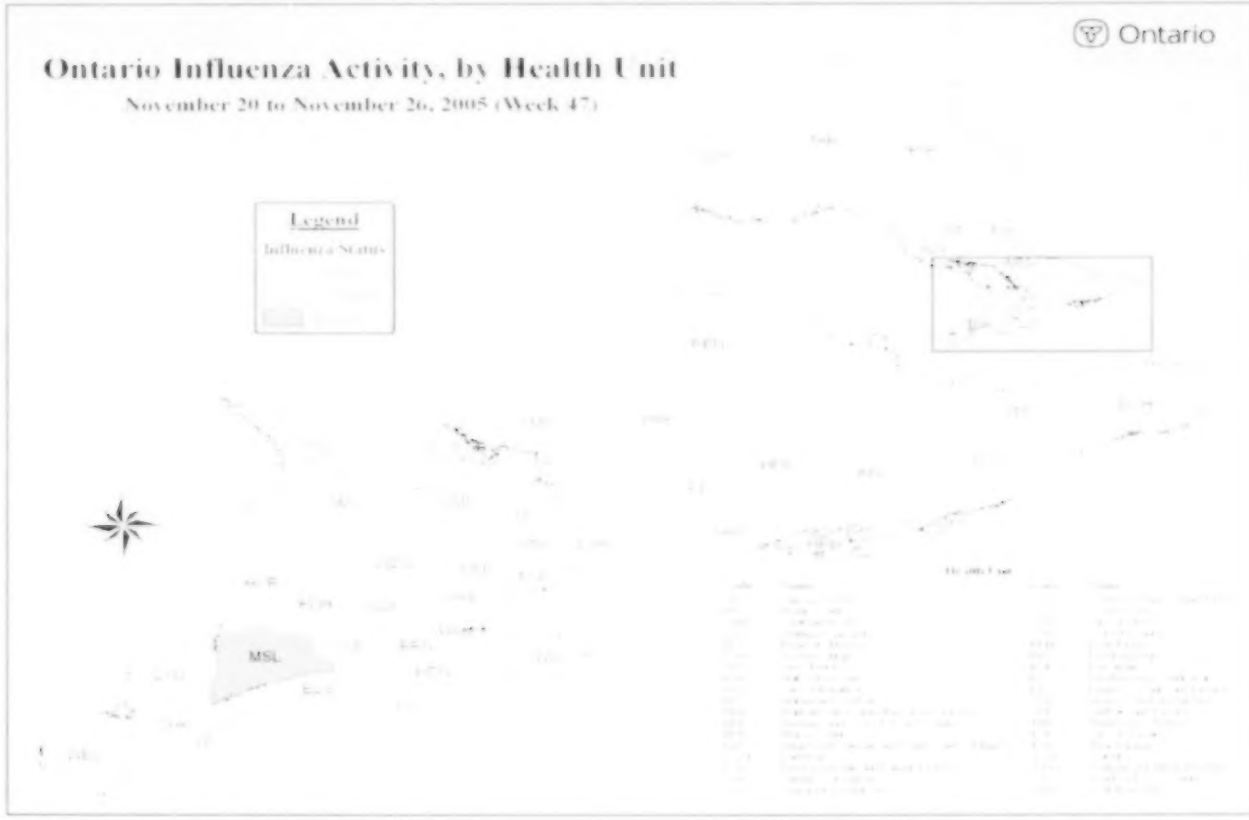
SOURCE: MOHLTC [Provincial Appendix D and Appendix E Database]
* New outbreaks are those in which the date of onset of the first case was in the surveillance period (October 30 to November 26, 2005).
† Season to date includes all outbreaks in which the date of onset of the first case was between September 1, 2005 and November 26, 2005.

Figure 1: Influenza activity* in Ontario by health unit, November 20 to November 26, 2005 (Week 47).



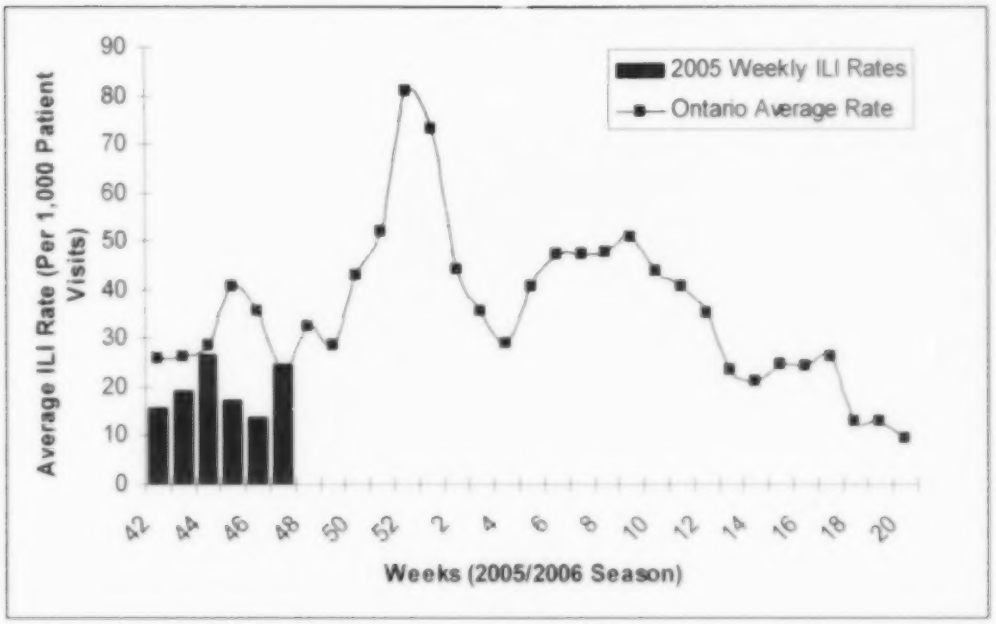
SOURCE: MOHLTC [Provincial Influenza Activity Report (Appendix C) Database]
* Influenza activity levels, as represented on this map, are assigned by local public health units and reported to the MOHLTC by the Tuesday following the end of the surveillance week at 4 pm. Activity levels are assigned based on laboratory confirmations, ILI reports from various sources, and laboratory-confirmed institutional outbreaks. Please refer to detailed definitions for the 2005-2006 season included in the Appendix.

Figure 1: Influenza activity* in Ontario by health unit, November 20 to November 26, 2005 (Week 47)



SOURCE: MOHLTC [Provincial Influenza Activity Report (Appendix C) Database]
* Influenza activity levels, as represented on this map, are assigned by local public health units and reported to the MOHLTC by the Tuesday following the end of the surveillance week at 4 pm. Activity levels are assigned based on laboratory confirmations, ILI reports from various sources, and laboratory-confirmed institutional outbreaks. Please refer to detailed definitions for the 2005-2006 season included in the Appendix.

Figure 2: Average influenza-like illness rate (per 1,000 patient visits) reported by sentinel physicians* in Ontario, by report week, compared to Ontario average† (1996/96 to 2004/05 seasons).



Source: Public Health Agency of Canada

* Sentinel physician information is reported to Public Health Agency of Canada

† No data available for mean rate in previous years for weeks 21 to 39 (1996-1997 through 2002-2003 seasons). During weeks 20-39, 2002-2003/2004-2005 seasons, ILI is reported once every two weeks, on even weeks only.

Table 6: Influenza-like illness counts, and associated age-specific rates, reported by sentinel physicians* in Ontario, by age group (years) and postal code, November 20 to November 26, 2005.

Postal Code	0 – 4	5 – 19	20 – 64	65 +	Unknown
K0C1A0	1	1	0	0	0
K2P1V3	0	0	0	0	0
K7H2W6	0	0	0	0	0
K7L1E9	0	0	0	0	0
K0L1C0	0	0	0	0	0
K0K1H0	0	0	0	0	0
K0L1H0	0	0	1	1	0
K0M1A0	0	0	0	0	0
L4J7Y3	0	0	0	0	0
M1K2S3	0	0	0	0	0
M5M1B2	0	0	0	0	0
M5M1B2	0	0	0	0	0
M4X1W4	0	0	0	0	0
M6G4A1	2	0	0	0	0
M4E1V8	0	0	0	0	0
M4H1C3	1	2	3	2	0
M8Y1W3	0	0	0	0	0
M2N6H7	0	0	0	1	0
M2J2Z1	0	0	0	0	0
M3H1T1	0	0	1	0	0
M9W4L6	0	0	1	0	0
M8V2Z5	0	0	0	0	0
L5G3H5	0	0	0	0	0
L4Y2N8	0	0	1	0	0
L6V4H6	0	0	1	0	0
L9W1G2	0	0	0	0	0
N1H4G2	0	0	0	0	0
L9H2G2	0	0	0	0	0
L9H1V1	0	0	0	0	0
L0R1H0	0	0	0	0	0
L2E1Y3	0	0	0	0	0
L0R1B0	1	3	2	2	0
N3R7K8	0	0	0	0	0
N3C2E2	0	0	0	0	0
N2G1P2	0	0	0	0	0
N5H1K9	0	0	0	0	0
N8X2G3	1	1	3	0	0
N0M1T0	0	0	0	0	0
N6C2R5	0	0	0	0	0
N0G1L0	1	0	1	0	0
N0C1E0	0	0	0	0	0
L4R4P4	0	0	0	0	0
K0J1B0	0	0	0	0	0
P0H2H0	0	0	0	0	0
P0A1C0	0	0	0	0	0
P0P1S0	0	0	0	0	0
P3E5V5	0	0	0	0	0
P4N1C6	0	0	0	0	0
P7E1H5	0	0	0	0	0
P0W1E0	0	0	0	0	0
P9N3W7	0	0	0	0	0
P8N2Z6	0	0	0	0	0
ILI Sum	**7**	**7**	**14**	**6**	**0**
ILI Rate (per 1,000 patient visits)	***73.68***	***50.72***	***18.59***	***15.19***	***0.00***

Source: Public Health Agency of Canada
* Sentinel physician information is reported to the Public Health Agency of Canada
Note: The small numbers of sentinel physicians reporting at the local level make the ILI rates unstable. Please interpret these data correspondingly.

FURTHER INFORMATION

1. Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
   Previous issues of the Ontario Influenza Bulleting can be accessed at:
   www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/pubhealth/flu/flu_04/flubul_mn.html

2. Public Health Agency of Canada
   Issues of FluWatch can be accessed at:
   www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/

3. United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
   www.cdc.gov/flu/

APPENDIX

Definitions for influenza activity levels:

No Data: No activity report corresponding to the surveillance week was received at the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Call Centre by the Tuesday (at 4 p.m.) following the end of the surveillance period.
No Activity = No ILI and no laboratory-confirmed cases* or outbreaks occurred.
Sporadic: sporadically occurring ILI **AND** laboratory-confirmed influenza* with NO outbreaks detected within the influenza surveillance region†
Localized: sporadically occurring ILI **AND** laboratory-confirmed influenza* together with outbreaks of ILI in schools and worksites or laboratory confirmed influenza in residential institutions occurring in less than 50% of the influenza surveillance region(s)
Widespread: sporadically occurring ILI **AND** laboratory-confirmed influenza* together with outbreaks of ILI in schools and worksites or laboratory-confirmed influenza in residential institutions occurring in greater than or equal to 50% of the influenza surveillance region(s)

* Confirmation of influenza within the surveillance region at any time within the prior four weeks
† Sub-regions within the province or territory as defined by the provincial/territorial epidemiologist

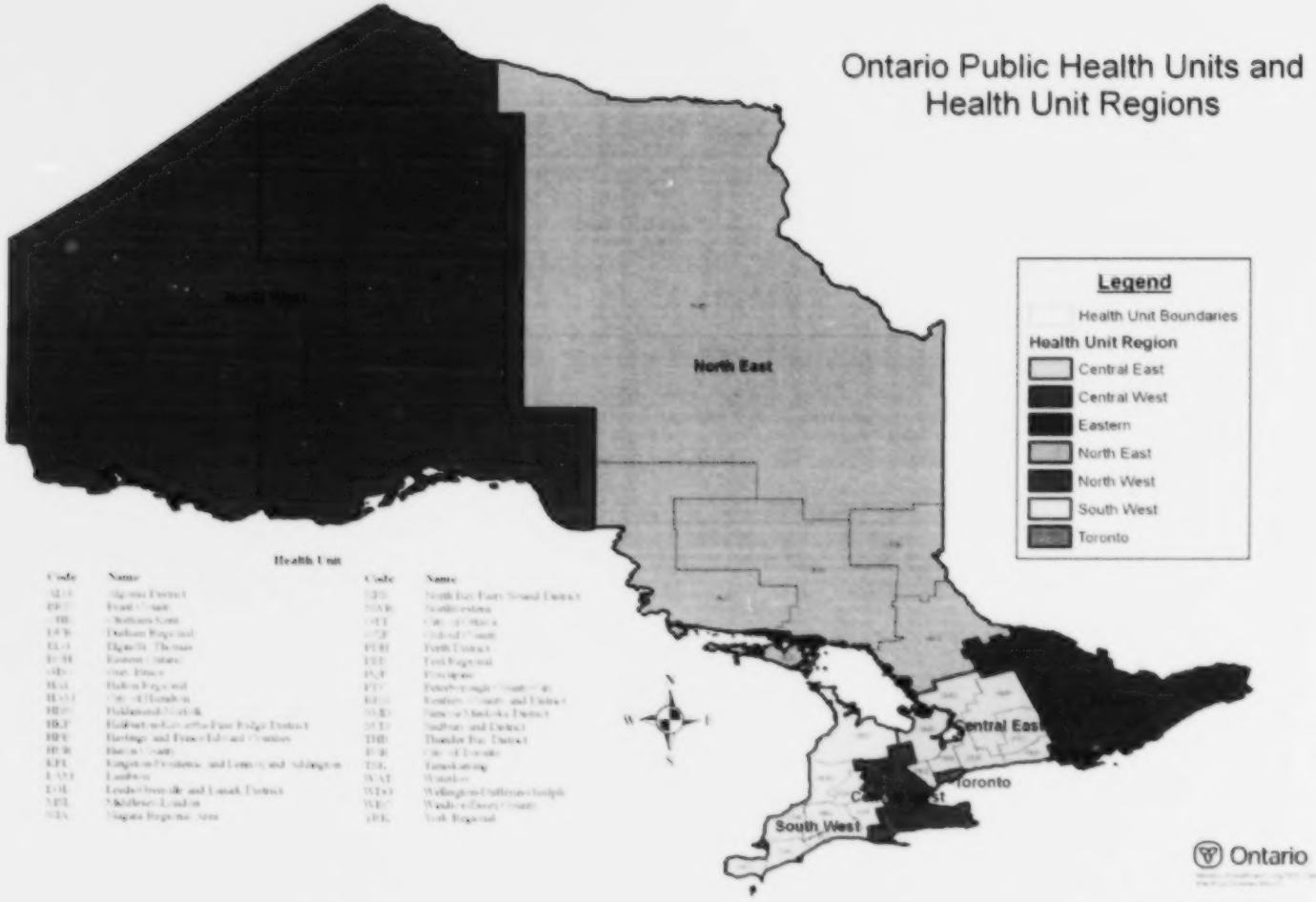
Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Definitions:

A) ILI in the general population:

Acute onset of respiratory illness with fever and cough and with one or more of the following - sore throat, arthralgia, myalgia, or prostration which could be due to influenza virus. In children under 5, gastrointestinal symptoms may also be present. In patients under 5 or 65 and older, fever may not be prominent.

B) ILI/influenza outbreaks:

Schools and work sites: greater than 10% absenteeism on any day most likely due to ILI
Residential institutions: two or more cases of ILI within a seven-day period, including at least one laboratory confirmed case.



Health Unit

Code	Name	Code	Name
ALG	Algoma District	NBS	North Bay Parry Sound District
BRD	Brant County	NWR	Northwestern
CHE	Chatham-Kent	OTT	Ottawa
DUR	Durham Regional	OXF	Oxford County
ELG	Elgin/St. Thomas	PEM	Perth District
ESS	Essex County	PET	Peterborough
GEO	Eastern Ontario	PLE	Prescott
GRE	Grey Bruce	PEE	Peterborough County-City
HAL	Halton Regional	REN	Renfrew County and District
HAM	City of Hamilton	SIM	Simcoe County District
HPE	Hastings and Prince Edward Counties	SDG	Southeastern
HKP	Haldimand-Norfolk	SUD	Sudbury and District
HBF	Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District	THB	Thunder Bay District
HPE	Hastings and Prince Edward Counties	TOR	City of Toronto
HUR	Huron County	TRL	Trillium
KFL	Kingston Frontenac and Lennox and Addington	WAT	Waterloo
LAM	Lambton	WDG	Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph
LKM	Leeds Grenville and Lanark District	WEC	Windsor-Essex County
MID	Middlesex-London	YRK	York Regional
NIA	Niagara Regional Area		

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